

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HALIFA 00009 071721Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1195

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, PINT, CA

SUBJECT: PREMIER REGAN OF NOVA SCOTIA ON SUBJECT ON
ECONOMIC CONTROLS

REF: CONGEN TEL 008 AND 006, JANUARY 6, 1976

1. IN A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION AT DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY IN HALIFAX, PREMIER REGAN, LIKE THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AND LABOR MINISTER FITZGERALD, HAD HIS WORD TO SAY ABOUT THE PRIME MINISTER S RECENT DISCUSSION OF CONTROLS ON THE CANADIAN ECONOMY.

2. THE PREMIER REJECTED ANY SUGGESTION OF PERMANENT CONTROLS. ANYONE SUGGESTING LONG-TERM CONTROLS IS UNWISE , THE PREMIER SAID, IN AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU S RECENT STATEMENT THAT THE FREE HARKET SYSTEM IN CANADA HAS FAILED AND THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE A LARGER ROLE IN RUNNING THE ECONOMY. THE PREMIER SAID THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT CANADIANS WANTED A CONTROLLED SOCIETY, BUT THAT THEY WOULD ACCEPT

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 HALIFA 00009 071721Z

SHORT-TERM MEASURES NOW IN EFFECT.

3. THE PREMIER TOLD THE STUDENTS THAT HE THOUGHT THE PRIME MINISTER S REMARKS HAD BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD AND MISINTERPRETED . (THE PREMIER APPARENTLY DID NOT ELABORATE ON THIS POINT.)

MR REGAN SAID THAT HE REMAINS IN FAVOR OF THE ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM INTRODUCED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN OCTOBER, STATING THAT WAGE THE PRICE CONTROLS SHOULD BE GIVEN A FAIR TRIAL. IF THEY PROVE TO BE INEFFECTIVE, THEN NOVA SCOTIA WILL REASSESS ITS POSITION BUT FOR THE TIME BEING THE PROVINCE IS COMMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FEDERAL PROGRAM. MANBEY

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